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September 24, 2021

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Chairman Kauffman and NYSERDA Board Members:

Thank you so much for your work to bring renewable energy sources to New York. Given the immediacy of the climate crisis, I was very excited to hear about the Tier 4 solicitation that was established to make progress toward New York's goal for 70 percent of the state's electricity to come from renewable sources by 2030.

Earlier this week, I saw Governor Hochul's announcement regarding two major green energy infrastructure projects to power New York City with wind, solar, and hydropower projects from upstate New York and Canada. While the approved plans provide some climate benefits, I am extremely disappointed that neither of these projects contain a promise to shut down "Big Allis."

"Big Allis" is the largest smokestack on site at Ravenswood Generating Station, which is the most polluting power plant in the state of New York. It is also located across from Queensbridge Houses, which is the largest public housing development in the United States. This area is frequently referred to as "Asthma Alley."

As the Chair of the House Oversight Committee, I recently held a field roundtable in New York City to hear directly from frontline communities that have been disproportionately burdened by pollution from power plants and discuss new environmental justice proposals the Committee will spearhead to curb deadly pollution and direct federal resources to the hardest-hit communities. "Big Allis" is a prime example of this situation, both in terms of the dangerous pollution it produces and the disproportionate burden it places on the local community.

It is my understanding that at least one proposal, submitted by Rise Light & Power, contained a promise to undertake renewable replacement of "Big Allis" that would have resulted in its full output replaced by renewables by 2026.

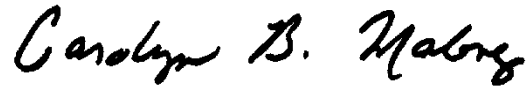
Given the detrimental effects "Big Allis" has caused and continues to cause, I am very upset that the selected plans do not contain a commitment to retire this smokestack.

Our communities and our environment cannot afford to pass up this opportunity to address the dangers of "Big Allis." It is absolutely unthinkable that people are dying in "Asthma Alley," and

existing proposals that could fix this were not selected. Our constituents deserve clean air, and this Board can help deliver it. We cannot afford anything less.

Thank you for your service to New York, and I look forward to working with you to reduce the harm “Big Allis” inflicts on our constituents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn B. Maloney". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress